



Saguaro National Park News Release

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Tourism to Saguaro National Park creates \$37.5 Million in Economic Benefit

Report shows visitor spending supports 526 jobs in local economy

Tucson, AZ - A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 634,286 visitors to Saguaro National Park in 2012 spent \$37.5 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 526 jobs in the local area.

"Saguaro National Park is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world," said Superintendent Darla Sidles. "We are happy to share the story of the iconic saguaro cactus, the diversity of the Sonoran desert, and the experiences the park provides to all visitors. National park tourism contributes significantly in the national economy – returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service - and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and Lynne Koontz for the National Park Service. The report shows \$14.7 billion of direct spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of \$26.75 billion.

According to the report most visitor spending supports jobs in restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (39 percent), hotels, motels and B&Bs (27 percent), and other amusement and recreation (20 percent).

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in state name and how the National Park Service works with state name communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/Arizona.

www.nps.gov

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